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## General Education Subcommittee Minutes, October 12, 2004

Utah State University

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## **GENERAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

12 October, 2004 8:30 a.m.  
Champ Hall Conference Room

A meeting of the General Education Subcommittee was held on 14 September at 8:30 a.m. in the Champ Hall Conference Room.

Present: Norm Jones, Chair  
Mary Leavitt, Advising  
Jeffrey Smitten, English  
John Mortensen, Advising  
Dick Mueller, College of Science  
John Lackstrom, Languages  
Cindy Moulton, Registrar's Office  
Tyler Bowles, Economics  
Vince Lafferty, Continuing Education  
Stacie Gomm, CIL  
Mark Brunson, Natural Resources  
Tagg Archibald, ASUSU

Excused: Wendy Holliday, Library; Tom Peterson, Interior Design

### **I. Approval of Minutes of 14 September meeting**

Moved and approved.

### **II. Bottleneck Classes and the Compact Plan**

Norm Jones distributed bottleneck course reports from four of the classes. Tagg Archibald from ASUSU reported on the students' efforts to focus on an initiative.

In discussing what's been done to relieve the English 1010 bottleneck, Jeff reported that \$172,800 was invested via Tier II tuition. This stabilizes the funding rather than relying on emergency instruction funds. It did increase capacity, too, somewhat. Tagg reported that students are not complaining about English; John Mortensen noted that registering students via clusters also helped in placement in English classes.

Math seems particularly common in the requests for bottlenecks. The accuracy of placement and success rate of students may be helpful also. Students may choose a lower level of math than they apparently qualify for due to their insecurity.

Norm pointed out that the USU courses that seem particularly troublesome are USU 1320 (Humanities); USU 1340 (Social Sciences); and USU 1350 (Life Sciences).

Joyce asked about the perceived bottleneck on DHA, given the flexibility of USU 3330. Two problems exist for some students: evening performances and cost of events. Mary Leavitt suggested that an approximate fee/cost that students understand before registering would be helpful. (Tom Peterson will be asked to consider this in offering a selection of no cost, low cost events. No textbook is required for USU 3330, so the only cost is attendance.)

The Council of Associate Deans is working jointly with General Education committee to develop an initiative on bottlenecks.

## II. State Meeting on Math and Elementary Education Majors

Richard Cutler summarized the meeting that Math 1050 is very helpful to preparing education majors for the Math 2020, math methods. A further analysis of Math 1050 will be undertaken to determine if it should be revised for special sections, even if it requires a 4<sup>th</sup> credit.

## III. Course Approvals

USU 1320 syllabus to be taught in Brigham City (nature, writing) was **recommended for approval** by Jeff Smitten. Mark Brunson requested a review to see if it could be taught via satellite for Main Campus students, and Vince Lafferty will follow up.

CHEM 1110 materials need to be shared with Ryan Dupont, Chair of Science Committee

**ENVS 5540, Sustainable Living** (new Course) DSS, taught by Leona Hawkes but not taught on annual basis. Committee will send back to instructor for more information.

USU 1340, The Human Mosaic: Diversity in the New Millennium, submitted by Fatimah Salleh, who is temporary lecturer; she is currently housed in JComm. The Social Sciences Committee **recommended approval**.

## IV. Concurrent Enrollment fulfilling General Education requirements

Should students who have completed their 6 breadth courses via concurrent enrollment be required to take two additional USU-prefix courses when they come to campus. Vince Lafferty noted that offering USU-prefix courses in the high schools might be feasible, but transferability has been an issue for the state office of education. Requiring additional classes could lengthen time to graduation. **Richard Mueller moved and Richard Cutler seconded that students who take concurrent enrollment courses will not be held to the two USU-prefix course rule, which will result in concurrent enrollment students being treated the same as transfer students.** A problem occurs when the remaining courses to be taken for breadth are dictated by the major department, so the students then are required still to meet the USU-prefix courses plus the breadth courses.

The question of the two USU-prefix rule being done away with was brought up. Norm asked for a more philosophical discussion given that University Studies is built on the interdisciplinary model.

## V. The 6<sup>th</sup> breadth course

EPC has requested that General Education revisit the concept of the 6<sup>th</sup> breadth course being required in the student's major. John noted that other schools use a more complete list of courses in the various areas to have students qualify as meeting the requirements. John further stated that letters of completion depended on fulfilling all 6 areas. One possible solution may be to allow students who have taken upper-division course work in an area (the major) to count that as fulfilling the breadth requirement.

John also noted that in the discussions in 1998-99 that University Studies was divided into University Studies (general education) and depth education.

## VI. Links/Documents on the Website

Norm asked the committee members to review the USU website and ensure that it is correct.

Meeting adjourned at 9:29 a.m.  
Norm Jones conducted the meeting.  
Joyce Kinkead served as recording secretary.  
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Upcoming Agenda Items:

- Revisit the two USU-course requirement
- Revisit the 6<sup>th</sup> breadth course (implemented in fall 2000)
- Revisit the two depth requirement for transfer students
- Common Course Numbering (John has a list to distribute); Banner implementation should come first